

Circular Letter No. 374.

October 12, 1906.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 1906-07.

Four regular courses are this year presented by the Department. Three of these, the elementary, intermediate and advanced, correspond to the similarly named courses previously given. Teachers who have passed the examinations of the elementary course with a high standing may enroll in the intermediate course for the coming year. Similarly, teachers who have passed the examinations for the intermediate course, with a high standing may enroll in the advanced course for the present year. It is the plan of the Department to provide in the future a literary course for teachers who complete satisfactorily the work of the advanced course, and the courses for the present year have been prepared with that end in view. The work outlined is entirely different from that given in the past, so that teachers who have previously been enrolled in the advanced course may profitably continue in that course. For teachers who are so located that they are unable to attend the regular classes, the Department offers a correspondence course of elementary grade. This course will be conducted directly from this office; teachers will be enrolled therein only upon recommendation of

the Superintendent. All Porto Rican teachers must, in accordance with the law take the work of one of the four courses of study.

The courses are to commence during the week beginning October 22, classes being conducted on whichever day of the week the Superintendent may determine, the teachers being excused from their ordinary work on those days for at least an hour in order to enable them to attend the classes. The teachers of English are to keep an accurate record of the attendance of all the Porto Rican teachers upon the English classes and to forward their reports of attendance to this office.

The courses will terminate May 25, 1907, thus allowing twenty-eight school weeks for the lessons. Examinations will be given at the end of the course, the written examination on Saturday, June 1, and the oral examinations on such date as may be most conveniently fixed between May 6 and June 8. The written examination will be conducted by the teachers of English in every town, oral examinations by a special examining committee at the district headquarters, or, in the larger districts, at two of the most important centers. Equal importance will be attached to oral and written examinations.

No prizes for excellence in the work will be awarded but all teachers who gain a standing of ninety per cent or over will be included in the roll of honor published in the

annual announcement and in the newspapers of the island, and the mark obtained by each teacher will appear on his license for the year 1907-08.

Elementary Course. -- The work of this course is comprised in the manual Lessons in English. In addition to the twenty-five lessons contained in this book three general review lessons will be given, questions being prepared in this office for the use of the teachers.

Intermediate Course. -- The principal part of the work of this course is contained in the new manual published by the Department, An Intermediate Course in English. In addition to exercises from this book teachers are to study the Course of Study for Graded Schools, recently issued by the Department. The regular text-book will be introduced with the sixth lesson, the first five lessons being devoted entirely to the Course of Study, as follows:

Lesson 1. -- Introduction, pages 3 to 6.

Lesson 2. -- Second Grade, pages 26 to 32.

Lesson 3. -- Third Grade, pages 35 to 39.

Lesson 4. -- Third Grade, pages 42 to 49.

Lesson 5. -- Fourth Grade, pages 52 to 62, omitting the poems on pages 54 and 55 and the Spanish on pages 55, 57 and 58.

Advanced Course -- The work for this course comprises the study of An Intermediate Course in English and the Course of Study for Graded Schools as prescribed for the intermediate course, and in addition the completion of the Course of Study and the reading of Barbara Frietchie, a drama by Clyde Fitch. Except by special arrangement this course will be given only in towns where at least three qualified teachers are enrolled.

Correspondence Course. -- The work of the correspondence course is contained in the first book of El Idioma Inglés. Teachers enrolled in this course will be given special instruction in regard to carrying on their work.

In whatever course teachers may be enrolled it should be remembered that progress in the study of English depends upon continual practice. Teachers should lose no opportunity to converse in English with people who have knowledge of that language. Letters to Superintendents or to this Department should be written in English whenever possible, and even though occasional errors may be made, practice of this nature will be found to be of constant value.

The Department fully appreciates the efforts which our teachers have made in the past and counts upon their continued loyal support in the future.

Respectfully, ROLAND P. FALKNER.

Commissioner of Education